GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:844
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT IN PRIMARY EDUCATION
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from certain quarters to bring legislation providing for punitive action against parents failing to send their children to school thereby denying them the fundamental right to primary education as reported in the Hindu, dated September 17, 2006;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a mechanism to see that every parent send his child to school; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (e) As per news-item that appeared in the Hindu dated September 17, 2006, Supreme Court Judge Justice K. G. Balakrishnan is reported to have mooted a legislation providing for punitive action against parents failing to send their children to school, thereby denying them the fundamental right to primary education. However, the Government has not received any communication to this effect. Nevertheless, in pursuance of Article 21A of the Constitution, which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6- 14 years, a draft Model Right to Education Bill has been formulated and circulated as framework to the States/UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon. Section 30 of the draft Model Bill contains provisions relating to the responsibility of every parent/ guardian to enroll his child or ward, who has attained the age of 6 years and above in a school, and to facilitate her completion of elementary education.